



# PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

April 22, 2016

**WARD 2 COUNCIL OFFICE**  
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## PAUL'S NOTE

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My deepest condolences to my good friend and colleague Regina Romero, who lost her father José this week.

José Romero Noriega migrated from Mexico to become a farmworker in the Yuma area. I didn't know him very well, but I see what he did in his life: came here with nearly nothing but raised several kids that went to college one of whom has become an important leader in our community. It says a lot about him.

On Tuesday, I voted with the majority of my colleagues to move forward with the RTA project to widen Broadway to six lanes between Euclid Avenue and Country Club Road. It wasn't an easy decision for me (or for my colleagues for that matter) because there are good people on both sides of the issue.

I learned a lot from my experience with another RTA project in my ward, the Kolb Road extension. This project was also passionately opposed by neighbors. I was less than enthusiastic about it. But, in the end, it was a voter approved project and voting no would only mean that the City would give up control of the project. My responsibility as a councilman is to make sure that the project is the best possible.

The issues raised from neighbors, historical preservationists and advocates for alternative transportation were well founded. That's why I had supported the process that led to this compromise. In the end, the project went down to six lanes with many more historic properties being saved than originally proposed.

Although many neighbors were opposed to

the project in general, I also had to consider the needs of the city as a whole. I was getting questions from east side neighbors who wondered why one of Tucson's main traffic corridors wasn't being widened after voting on it 10 years ago.

I was not interested in quitting on this project. Work was already done on a compromise and pushing things to another committee would have been a failure of leadership on my part. A further delay (which would have added to the cost) would also have compromised our ability to meet traffic needs in the future. This was a voter approved RTA project. There was the possibility that another delay would have meant the RTA taking over the project entirely, or choosing to spend \$71 million elsewhere, meaning no improved pedestrian access, bike lanes or landscaping.

## PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

I supported council member Fimbres's motion, which took into account concerns over bus pullouts and other issues. I believe that the 30% plan, which was itself already a compromise, is the best possible plan for cars, transit, bikes and pedestrians on Broadway.

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Marian Lupu's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday is coming up. Her friends are throwing her a party on May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, 160 S Scott, from 1 pm to 5 pm.

As befitting Marian's sense of humor, the party is called Marian Lupu Is Not Dead Yet. The dance company run by her daughter and son-in-law, Dancing in the Streets, will be performing along and there will be a barbecue buffet and a silent auction. Dancing in the Streets will be collecting donations.

Marian was a founder of the Pima Council on Aging and didn't retire as director until she was 82. She is still serving as a great leader of our community and we all wish her a happy birthday.

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Tucson Water and Environmental Services customers are invited to attend town hall meetings to learn about and discuss proposed rate increases for Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018.

Tucson Water is proposing water rate changes for FY 2017 and FY 2018, which would take effect respectively on July 5, 2016, and July 3, 2017, if approved by the Mayor and City Council. Two proposed water rate options will be presented along with Tucson Water's cost-of-service analysis and 5-year financial plan. These and other documents are available online at [www.tucsonaz.gov/water/FY2017proposedrates](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/water/FY2017proposedrates).

The Environmental Services Department is proposing a recycling surcharge for residential and commercial recycling and increases to the commercial collection rates, which would take effect in July 2016, if approved by the Mayor and City Council. Their next town hall will be at the El Pueblo Activity Center, 101 W Irvington Road on Monday, April 25. On Tuesday, April 26, one will be at the Quincie Douglas Public Library, 1585 E 36<sup>th</sup>. The last will be at the Tucson Water Eastside Service Center, 10445 E Golf Links Rd.

All the town halls will feature the same content. Introductions of Tucson Water and Environmental Services staff and a PowerPoint presentation will begin at 5:45 p.m. Light refreshments will be available. Residents and customers are encouraged to attend to learn more about how Tucson Water covers costs associated with delivering high-quality water and its plans for managing this resource in the future. Environmental Services staff will discuss their operations and the need for increased fees. For more information, call (520) 791-4331 or e-mail [pico@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:pico@tucsonaz.gov).

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## COMMEMORATIVE TREES

Tucson Clean & Beautiful, in cooperation with the City of Tucson and Pima County, announce the availability of commemorative trees along the Pantano River Park. Commemorative trees are available for purchase through Tucson Clean & Beautiful for \$225 each (partially tax-deductible), including the tree, irrigation lines and number marker installation, name dedication at a commemorative plaza, dedication certificate and guaranteed replacement. Trees may be purchased for dedication honoring special occasions, or in remembrance of any friend or family member.

Visit [www.tucsoncleanandbeautiful.org/commemorative-tree-park](http://www.tucsoncleanandbeautiful.org/commemorative-tree-park) to dedicate a commemorative tree, or call B. J. Cordova at (520) 837-6832 for assistance.

The new Pantano River Park Commemorative Tree Program is based upon the success of the completed El Paseo de los Arboles commemorative tree project where 600 trees were added on the Santa Cruz River bank. Over the next several years, dedicated trees will restore more than two miles of natural habitat, and will grow to provide shade for users of this multi-use path. More than 275 trees already have been planted of the 570 trees that eventually will fill this park.

A dedication ceremony will be held May 6 at Pantano River Park, 1750 S Pantano Parway and will include a reading of the names for whom trees have been dedicated, and names inscribed at the nearby Children's Memorial Garden. An informal walking tour of newly-dedicated trees concludes the ceremony. Light refreshments will be provided.

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## CHILDREN'S ROLE MODEL

The Children's Museum and Arizona Bilingual Newspaper invite all children of ages 7-12 to send us a letter of who their Role Model is. We will award the winners on April 30th at the Children's Festival. All community leaders will be present that day! Additionally, all winners will have the opportunity to shadow some time with their "Role Models" after the event. Please send your letter to: 245 S. Plumer Ave. Ste 14, Tucson, AZ. 85719 or by email at [chidrensfestival@azbilingual.com](mailto:chidrensfestival@azbilingual.com)

For more information, visit [azbilingual.com](http://azbilingual.com) or [childrensmuseumtucson.org](http://childrensmuseumtucson.org)

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## CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

**Pickle-ball:** A Pickle-ball Clinic for beginners will be offered on April 27 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. There is a daily fee/membership required. Register for one of all three days. Visit the main building of Udall Center to sign up.

For more information, please contact the Carol West Senior Addition, 791-4121

## PARKS PROGRAMS

**Summer Track and Field:** Summer track and field will be offered every Tuesday from June 7 through July 19 at Catalina High School (2645 E Pima). Registration is \$4 for adults and \$3 for youth 17 years and younger. On-site registration will be at 5:45 with events beginning at 6:30. Events will include the short distance runs and relays, including a 50 meter dash for participants five and under. Field events include long jump, javelin, shot put and high jump. Ribbons will go to track meet finishers.

**Udall Pool Spring Hours:** The Udall Pool located at 7200 E Tanque Verde Rd began its Spring schedule on April 1st. Call 791-4004 for pool hours and additional information.

**Summer 2016 Activity Guide:** Watch for the Summer Tucson Parks and Recreation 2016 Activity Guide which will be published on Monday, April 18, 2016. The Activity Guide will have complete information on classes, programs, aquatics, and registration. The guide can also be viewed at [www.ezeereg.com](http://www.ezeereg.com).

Contact Registration Services at 791-4877 for more information or questions.



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Tucsonaz.gov/  
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Remember to like  
Paul on Facebook!

Please bring these items to the Ward 2 Office  
for the following charities:

**THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK—Non Perishable  
Items**

**DIAPER BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA—  
Infant/Child/Adult Diapers**

**TIHAN - Personal Care Items for Individuals  
and Families in Need**

**LIONS CLUB—Eye Glasses**

**DANCING IN THE STREETS ARIZONA—Ballet/  
Dance Equipment**

**CASA MARIA—Plastic bags**

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## MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The next Mayor and Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, May 3**. Regular Session starts at 5:30 pm following an afternoon study session. There is always a short call to the audience before the business portion of the meeting. Council chambers are located downtown at 255 W Alameda.

The agendas for the meetings are posted online at <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/clerks/mcdocs>

